

recognition, General MacArthur's words, "no army has ever done so much with so little," truly depict the plight of the remaining Filipino veterans today as they did half a century ago.

Although long overdue, the President's budget for this year includes funding for Filipino World War II veterans. Unfortunately, the \$5 million dollar yearly provision earmarked for a selected group of Filipino veterans for the next five years is too little, and for many who have since passed on, too late. In anticipation of this, Mr. Filner, who introduced H.R. 836, recently made a motion to increase the amount in the President's budget request in order to fund health care for Filipino veterans. This would not fulfill the promises made and reneged on 50 years ago, but it would ensure that surviving veterans would, at least, be provided the adequate medical care and treatment they deserve for their last few years.

I would like to recognize the members of the Guam Chapter of the Philippine Scouts Veterans Association, whose names I am submitting for the RECORD, for introducing and providing guidance to me on the issue. Along with Mr. Cornelio "Corky" Tapao, the man responsible for getting me acquainted with the association, these people made me recognize and appreciate the sacrifices and contributions of these heroes who fought and died for our cause in World War II. In the past, this country has considered Filipinos as "little brown brothers." Let us take an extra step and go a long way toward recognizing them as equals by recognizing their service. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 836.

PHILIPPINE SCOUTS VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICA

Federico Antolin; Jesus Armigos; Julio Balidio; Simeon Bautista; Albert Calub; Abraham Cancino; Antonio Catbagan; Alfredo De Jesus; Monorario Demasino; Avelino Espulgar; Cesar Estillore; Celestino Franco; Gavino Gonzales; Ross Gonzalo; Hermongenes Guanga; Marciano Iglesias; Bonifacio LaPuebla; Conrad Loreque; Constanicio Madeloso; Gerry Magpale; Gordon Mailloux; Norbert Mallorca; Pete Mandapat; Ignacio Manuel; Pacifico Muyco; Estelito Papa; Andres Placides; Ignacio Manuel; Artemio Razalan; Teofilo Robeniol; Juanito Roldan; Joe Redonia; Hipolito Sarmiento; Fred Somera; Mercedes Yara; Efen Zabala

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF "BREL"

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the most successful theatrical production in Cleveland, Ohio, "Jaques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris."

During the 1970's racial tensions in Cleveland were high, suburban shopping malls were gaining popularity, and interest in the downtown area was dismal. Shops and restaurants were closing and once magnificent, busy buildings were abandoned. Ray Shepardson, a guidance counselor from Seattle, had the foresight to recognize the potential of the theaters of Playhouse Square, the forgotten gems

of downtown. He organized support in the community to save the theaters from scheduled demolition and to restore them to their original grandeur. He was determined to prove that downtown entertainment in Cleveland would thrive.

After restoration of the theaters, the show that brought people who hadn't been downtown in decades back was "Jaques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris," created and directed by Dr. Joseph Garry. The cabaret-style show features 4 extraordinary singers performing 26 songs by Jaques Brel, a contemporary French poet, philosopher, troubadour, artist, rebel, lover, cynic, and sentimentalist. In the Director's words, "Brel" is more than a cabaret show, "it is a series of impressions, perceptions, and truths. It is bitter, it is sweet, it is agonizing, it is loving. It is the mind, heart and soul of a sensitive contemporary man."

On April 18, 1973 "Brel" opened for a planned three-week run to an audience of 300 people who fell in love with the show and with the vision of a revitalized downtown Cleveland. A record-breaking two years and 600 performances later, the show had a recording, a national reputation, and sometimes an even bigger crowd than the Indians. It proved Ray Shepardson correct—people really would come downtown to the theaters at Playhouse Square.

Twenty-five years after that opening night, the historic theaters of Playhouse Square and downtown Cleveland continue to draw great crowds, and "Brel" is the musical phenomenon that started it all. I would like to salute the Director, Joseph Garry, the Musical Director, David Gooding, the original cast, Cliff Bemis, David Frazier, Providence Hollander, and Theresa Piteo and everyone involved in carrying on the legacy of "Brel."

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ALFREDO  
A. XERES-BURGOS, SR.

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Alfredo A. Xeres-Burgos, Sr., a Philippine National who has helped preserve a valiant moment in American history on the island of Corregidor, Philippines. Colonel Burgos has demonstrated unique perseverance and deserves our gratitude and recognition.

May 6, 1998, will mark the 56th anniversary of the fall of the Corregidor to Imperial Japanese forces. For those who fought under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur in the heroic defense of Bataan and Corregidor against Imperial Japan and who survived the infamous Bataan death march and captivity in Japanese prison camps these memories have not faded. During these historic events and throughout the war, U.S. Marines and Filipinos displayed selfless sacrifice rivaling any other military units.

Filipino and United States defenders of the Philippines engaged Japanese forces from the beaches of the Philippine islands to the last defense of Bataan and Corregidor in a grueling battle lasting 150 days. That defense compelled Japan to divert thousands of additional

troops to the Philippines. In that defense, the members of the Filipino forces and their United States counterparts struggled against difficult odds and desperate circumstances and faced, with indomitable spirit, fortitude, and loyalty to America, powerful Imperial Japanese forces.

Today, the island of Corregidor is a superb living monument to the courage of the American soldiers, sailors and Marines who defended it, and to the horror of war. Thanks to the initiative taken by Colonel Burgos, Corregidor is one of the most impressive of all WWII memorial parks to be found anywhere in the world.

Colonel Burgos has repaired the battered road linking the gun batteries and bomb-shattered buildings of this fortress, Fort Mills. He has created informative signs, trained guides and organized tours and transportation while walking a fine line between preserving historic relics for the benefit of posterity and a benefit for tourists from all over the world. In 1995, Colonel Burgos served as the personal guide to President Clinton when he visited Corregidor. Most amazing is the way Colonel Burgos has persevered over the years in preserving this WWII island fortress despite a number of difficulties and inadequate funding.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize a member of my constituency who has worked hard to honor the legacy of Colonel Burgos: Robert F. Reynolds. Through his efforts, Mr. Reynolds has ensured that Colonel Burgos is recognized for his hard work and dedication to Corregidor.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Colonel Alfredo Xeres-Burgos for his dedication to Fort Mills and Corregidor. The American veterans who survived the Fall of Bataan and the Fall of Corregidor can be proud that we have not forgotten the battlefield where they so valiantly fought. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Colonel Burgos and wishing him many more years of success.

SALUTING THE FIRST TIME VISIT  
OF A JOINT DELEGATION FROM  
THE MERCOSUR COUNTRIES

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in the history of the United States a Joint Delegation of the Parliamentary Committee of MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market), comprised of both Senators and Representatives from the Congresses of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, recently visited Washington, DC to meet with their United States counterparts.

The visit of the Delegation emphasizes the transformation that has taken place in the last decade and a half in these four South American countries. Understanding the need to decentralize their economies, these countries worked together to establish policies and regulations that have resulted in successful market-oriented economies.

The fifteen legislators from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay participated in several working sessions, met with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the House Committee on International Relations, and with